

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 00465 270424Z

64

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SUBJ: ELECTRIC WORKERS WILDCAT STRIKE

1. SUMMARY. LOWER PAID TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC BOARD HAVE CARRIED OUT WILDCAT STRIKES IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA RESULTING IN SPORADIC BUT ANNOYING DISRUPTIONS OF SERVICE. STRIKES ARE TO PROTEST GOM'S FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE HARUN REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOR PAST FIVE DAYS, ACCORDING TO PRESS, MORE THAN 4,000 WORKERS (INDUSTRIAL AND MANUAL) OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC BOARD (NEB) HAVE STRUCK IN KL, MALACCA, JOHORE BARU, BATU PAHAT, ALOR STAR, TAIPENG, BUTTERWORTH, TELOK ANSON, IPH AND KUANTAN BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE HARUN REPORT ON SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR EMPLOYEES IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND STATUTORY BODIES (E.G. THE NEB, PENANG PORT COMMISSION, BANK NEGARA, MARA, MARDI, FIDA, ETC.). THEY ALSO ARE PROTESTING ALLEGED CHANGES IN THE COMMISSION'S RECOMENDATIONS BY THE GOM'S PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION. A SIMILAR STRIKE OCCURRED LAST FALL. GOVT, NEB AND UNION OFFICIALS ARE MEETING TO ATTEMPT TO SETTLE THE STRIKE BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, ELECTRIC OUTAGES ARE

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PAGE 02 KUALA 00465 270424Z

COMMON AND HAVE AFFECTED ALL PARTS OF KL. IN IT'S

JAN 25 EDITORIAL THE PENANG "STAR" COMPLAINED THAT THE WORKERS WERE HOLDING "THE PEOPLE" ZR RANSOM BUT ASKED "NEED IT TAKE SO LONG TO IMPLEMENT THE (HARUN) REPORT?"

3. COMMENT: A ROYAL COMMISSION TO SET UNIFORM SALARY SCALES AND CONDITIONS OF WORK FOR EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND STATUTORY BODIES WAS ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 1971 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF JUSTICE HARUN M. HASHIM. A REPORT ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES WAS ISSUED IN DECEMBER 1972 AND ON STATUTORY BODIES IN JUNE 1973 BUT THESE WERE NOT RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC AND HAVE BEEN BOGGED DOWN IN HAGGLING BETWEEN THE PSD, THE CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS AND THE UNIONS AND MANagements OF THE VARIOUS AFFECTED BODIES EVER SINCE. AMONG THE ISSUES ARE THE FACT THAT SOME SENIOR OFFICIALS OF AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS WOULD SUFFER REDUCTION IN PAY, PRIME UPPER AND MIDDLE LEVEL EMPLOYEES WILL GET MORE THAN THEIR CIVIL SERVICE EQUIVALENTS, AND THE HARUN COMMISSION DECLINED TO RECOMMEND EXTRA PAY FOR THOSE WHO WORK NIGHT AND HOLIDAY SHIFTS (I.E. POWER PLANT ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS). THE IN-FIGHTING WITHIN THE GOVT AND AMONG THE UNIONS OVER THESE ISSUES PLUS THE BURDEN OF PAYING THE NEW SCALES RETROACTIVE TO 1971 HAVE DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT OR ITS ISSUANCE TO THE PUBLIC. THIS HAS RESULTED IN

GREAT FRUSTRATION AMONG LOWER-PAID WORKERS BUFFETED BY INFLATION.
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